



**Evaristo A. Bonilla, USN**  
**Chief Aviation Electrician's Mate (Aviation Warfare)**

Chief Bonilla was born 30 April 1976 in Granada, Nicaragua and immigrated to the United States at the age of five. He graduated June 1994, from Rockville High School, in Maryland; and one month later, enlisted in the United States Navy. Following completion of Basic and Airman Apprenticeship Training in October of 1994, at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, he reported as an Airman Apprentice to USS WASP (LHD-1).

In 1996, after "striking" into the Aviation Electrician's Mate (AE) rating, Petty Officer Third Class Bonilla received orders to NATTC Memphis for AE "A" School. His follow-on fleet assignment was Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14 (HM-14) in Norfolk, Virginia. There he achieved the rank of Second Class Petty Officer and served as Corrosion Work Center supervisor for the majority of his tour. Additionally, he went on to serve as Network Administrator and Operations Leading Petty Officer at Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 1 (VR-1), at Andrews AFB, Maryland. He departed in 2003 as AE1 Bonilla and began Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV) Operator training at Choctaw Outlying Field in Florida. Following he reported to Fleet Composite Squadron 6, Detachment Patuxent River, Maryland. There he reached a career milestone when selected to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. As a newly pinned Chief, AEC Bonilla deployed to Mosul, Iraq in 2008 as the Maintenance Officer of a UAV Detachment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He later reported for a tour at Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Maryland, and spear-headed Maintenance and Supply Integration process improvement efforts throughout the Navy and Marine Corps Aviation Enterprise.

Chief Bonilla currently serves as Senior Enlisted Leader and Maintenance Officer with Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Directorate in Saint Inigoes, Maryland. He holds a Bachelor of Liberal Studies Degree from Excelsior College. Additionally, he is a graduate of the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy Class 162. Decorations include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2 awards), Navy Achievement Medal, Expert Rifleman Medal, and various unit and campaign awards.